

Board of Commissioners Resolution

B2020-212

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-83506

Sponsor: Finance

Meeting Date: 10/27/2020

Item Number: 2020-480

Title: Reimbursement for 2020 Civil Unrest Activities

Background:

On May 25, 2020, Mr. George Floyd was tragically and publicly killed in Minneapolis while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police Department. On May 28, 2020, following several days of peaceful protest and social unrest in Minneapolis in response to the killing and the systemic racial inequities that the killing represented, peaceful protests became interspersed with violence, theft and property damage in Ramsey County and some of its cities including Saint Paul, Maplewood, North Saint Paul and Roseville. On May 29, 2020, the Chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners declared Ramsey County to be in a Local State of Emergency effective May 28, 2020 due to the continued response to and recovery from violence, theft and property damage. The local state of emergency declaration was further extended by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on June 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

During the month that followed, departments incurred expenses directly related to civil unrest which were not originally budgeted in their respective 2020 approved budgets. The driving factors for the additional costs were for overtime and associated benefits incurred by departments to address our residents needs in the amount of \$596,000; hotel charges to ensure the safety of our homeless residents for \$59,000; and community engagement and outreach activities for \$45,000. Outreach activities funded included programs from organizations such as: Black Civic Network, Healing Streets, and Project Restore Minnesota. These organizations were available to aid our most vulnerable and racially diverse communities.

Ramsey County does not have funding sources to alleviate these additional costs and departments are unable to absorb them; therefore, funding from the General Contingency Account to pay for these costs is being requested.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Authorize the County Manager to transfer \$727,031.35 from the General Contingency Account to reimburse departments for costs associated with civil unrest incurred between May 25 and June 30, 2020.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Frethem, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.
Ayes – 7: Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt, Carter. Motion passed.

By: _____
Janet M. Guthrie, Chief Clerk – County Board